



**PIERLUISI SUPPORTS THE MEASURE
TO GIVE MORE FUNDS TO SECURITY
In funds for the COPS program
*Friday, March 18, 2009***

The Resident Commissioner in Washington, Pedro Pierluisi, today supported a congressional initiative that will allow the recruitment of more officers to contribute to public safety on our streets.

The House Project 1139 (The Community Oriented Policy Services Improvements Act of 2009) will also authorize the Secretary of Justice to recruit past members of the armed forces into the community police to serve in the areas affected by the recent closure of military bases (Troops-to-Cops Program).

This also provides the allocated funds for community prosecutors to fight violent crime (Community Prosecutors Program) and to develop new technologies to prevent crime (Technology Grants Programs).

The measure presented by the Congressman Anthony Weiner (D-NY)- would authorize a total of \$1,250 million in additional funds for the COPS program, for which Puerto Rico would have to compete.

"When the COPS program was created, I was Secretary of Justice in Puerto Rico and it makes me proud to have worked with the Clinton Administration to ensure its approval in Congress. As someone who has been touched in their own family by violent crime, I am convinced that the most basic right that the government owes its citizens is the right of personal security," said Pierluisi during a mark-up session of the Committee of the Judiciary of the House of Representatives of the United States.

The \$1,250 million, which will be authorized with the measure, will allow the recruitment of some 10,000 new law and order officials, and the 50,000 during their lifetime.

So far, Puerto Rico has received over \$160 million in funding for the COPS program. This assignment has represented to Puerto Rico some 3,500 police officers. Around \$6 million have been destined to improve the security in the schools and more than \$9 million have been allotted

to technology. Almost all the 78 municipalities of the island have benefited from this program.

“The statistics may not adequately reflect the impact of this program in Puerto Rico. The number of lives saved, of prevented crimes, and the number of the families that have not had to suffer the pain of losing a loved one, that is incalculable,” said the Resident Commissioner in the Committee

<http://pierluisi.house.gov>